

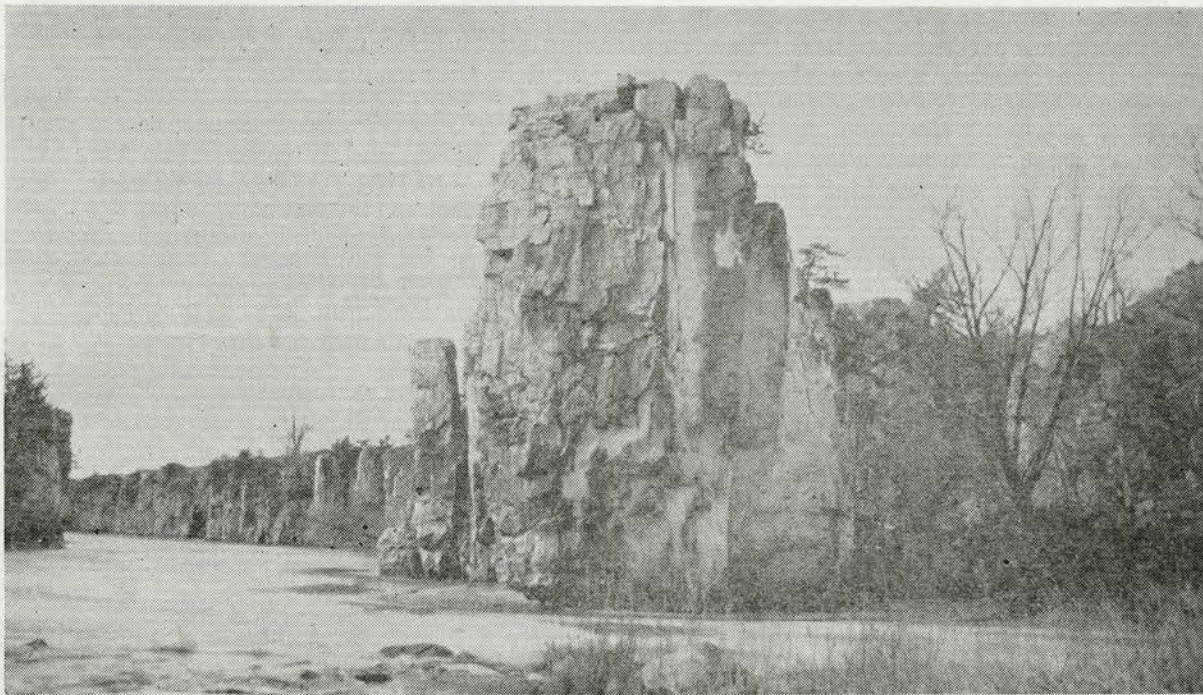
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Volume XXII

NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

MARCH, 1949



*Castle Rock, Pallsades of Split Rock Creek in
State Park, East of Sioux Falls.*

---Photo by C. M. Heinson

THE KING RAIL

By
O. A. Stevens



O. A. Stevens

Some years ago a hunter brought me a strange bird secured near Fargo. It was strange to me also, but on consulting books I decided it was a king rail. This was beyond its natural summer range so I reported it to Mr. Bent. In his volume on marsh birds, which appeared the next year, he stated: "The king rail has also been observed or taken in North Dakota (Fargo, Oct. 15, 1925) * *". Western Iowa and southwestern Minnesota were given as the limits of its nesting range. Dr. Roberts also mentioned the record and commented that it was an exceptionally late date for such a northern locality. This probably emphasizes that it was an abnormal case. Taverner reported one record for Manitoba.

The rails belong to the same family as coots (mud hens). They have heavy bodies, moderately long necks and bills. The king rail is our largest species, as one might suspect from its name. Its general color is reddish brown. The entire upper parts are streaked with black, the flanks barred with white, the breast and lower neck not marked.

This was one of the species of birds first described by Audubon. He secured it near Charleston, South Carolina, where he did much collecting with his friend and collaborator, Rev. John Bachman. He called the bird great red-breasted rail and found that Wilson had not recognized it as distinct from the clapper rail, a south coast species. The king rail is not much of a traveler and spends the winters from South Carolina to Florida, west to Mississippi and Texas. Howell reports that it nests throughout Florida, especially in the Everglades and marshes of the upper St. John's River.

The nests are placed in grasses or low bushes and rise only a few inches above the water. As many as 15 eggs are laid but usually 8 to 11. They are about one and three-fourth inches long, buffy with small brown spots. The downy young are black. Audubon reported they were very active and might be mistaken for mice when running through the grass. By November they reach mature plumage.

These birds feed extensively upon seeds of various plants, also upon insects and small water

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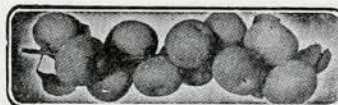
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animals. They are most active in early morning and in the evening. Their flesh is considered tender and juicy. Audubon commented that they were rarely shot because they usually remained hidden in the marsh and could hardly be made to fly up. He reported that his friend Bachman killed a large mocassin snake which had swallowed an adult rail. At a much later date, Arthur T. Wayne, writing on the birds of South Carolina, reported one of these snakes had taken all the eggs in a nest.



NEWSLANTS

By

Harry A. Graves



H. A. Graves

From Mrs. Fred Goetjen of Garfield, Alberta, comes an unusually interesting eight page letter, with a report of their garden activities for 1948 and also two very beautiful pictures of their yard in kodacolor. An outstanding feature of their yard are some tall lupens, apparently of the Russell variety, also in plain view are some very fine lil'es of various species. Mrs. Goetjen writes an interesting description of their garden—both vegetable and ornamental. It has always been one of our regrets that space does not permit passing along entire such worth while lettere as Mrs. Goetjen writes.

From Jim Eastgate, one of our members and work unit leader for SCS in Bismarck, comes a detailed report of the North Burleigh Soil Conservation District with offices in Bismarck. Jim is a long time member of the North Dakota Horticultural Society and to be sure that he does not miss any copies of the magazine, pays up his dues for three years in advance. Jim also mentions that they hope to set out around 2,000 wild plums of the Americana species. We have talked to quite a few people, incidentally, this winter who have harvested some nice fruit from the wild plums that have been set out in their farmstead and field shelterbelts. It seems that this is a very worth while way of distributing fruit through the farming areas of North Dakota. We are glad to see that the Soil Conservation Service is including fruits plants of this kind in their regular plantings.

I have before me a recent issue of "The Green Thumb," the official publication of the Colorado Horticultural and Forestry Association and published at Denver, Colorado. It makes one begin to wonder and perhaps shudder a little bit to see a large ad advising people how their elm trees can be saved from Dutch Elm disease. If they have it now in Denver, one wonders how long it will be before we have it here in the Upper Midwest. The American Elm has been regarded by many as our outstanding shade and boulevard tree. If anything should happen to it in the way of Dutch Elm disease, we are going to have to look around for something else to take its place. I believe it was Mrs. Kannowski of Grand Forks

who wondered a few years ago if we would not be wise in planting more hackberry, looking forward to the day when Dutch Elm disease might become a serious problem here.

The current issue of the Bi-Monthly bulletin available from the N. D. A. C. Experiment Station contains a very interesting summary of the sweet corn trials as reported by Dr. J. H. Schultz, head of the Department of Horticulture of the Experiment Station at N. D. A. C. Those of you who get the Bi-Monthly bulletin already should refer to this article since it gives some very interesting information on the behavior of the different hybrids as contrasted with the open pollinated kinds in this trial. Those of you who do not get the Bi-Monthly bulletin should drop a card to the N. D. A. C. Experiment Station and ask to be put on the mailing list. It will keep you up to date on the research work being carried on by your North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

I think it is a good plan to break up the monotony of this prose from time to time with a poem from the collection that Mildred Hendrickson, our office secretary, collects. This one is given the title of "Spring Arithmetic":

It was the busy hour of four
When from a city hardware store
Emerged a gentleman who bore—

One hoe
One spade
One wheelbarrow.

From there our hero promptly went
Into a seed establishment,
And for these things his money spent
One peck of bulbs
One job lot of shrubs
One quart of assorted seeds.

He has a garden underway,
And if he's fairly lucky—say—
He'll have (about) the last of May—
One squash vine
One egg-plant
One radish.

The following paragraph was taken verbatim from the recent issue of "The Minnesota Horticulturist." They had taken it, it turn, from the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society and has to do with the white rose, Frau Karl Druschki. Dr. Schultz has told me more than once of how well this rose did for them on the Pacific Coast. He pointed out that it won many prizes at the Portland Rose Festival. Dr. C. I. Nelson, bacteriologist at N. D. A. C., has grown this rose

(Continued on Page 47)

GARDEN NOTES

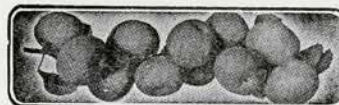
By
W. E. H. Porter



Unlike residents of more genial climes we are still locked in winter's iron grip, but hope brightens our vision for spring, clad in raiment of beauty and attended by her retinue of happy summer birds triumphantly approaches the threshold to vanquish the long months of arctic bondage. Looking over my notes I see that in England Christmas day was rather cheerless with a heavy freezing fog and tho there seemed to be plenty of turkeys, geese and ducks, Christmas trees were scarce, a 5 ft. tree, hardly enough to support a humming bird nest, sold for \$8. With the exception of a 6t ft. tree presented by the Norwegian government in Trafalgar Square, round which Londoners danced and sang carols. In Australia, Melbourne was in the throes of a heat wave, temp. at 97 and bathing beaches were crowded. Here, after an overnight low of -30, a biting, rising south wind and blowing snow. December 28th. Temporarily the weather has settled with little wind, cloudless and temp. around zero, as good as one can expect with a 29 inch blanket of snow. At least these flaming sunsets in late afternoon are beautiful beyond description, a form of splendor unexcelled and hard to equal anywhere else. Specially gorgeous was a skysetting on Christmas eve; intense cold of 25 below, overhead a deep blue cloud dappled sky and curtain of pink tinted cloud from north to east overarching a proscenium of gentian blue, fading to a pale blue-green horizon, a backdrop for the frosted branching of poplar, elm and ash, rising from a floor of dazzling white. Truly the firmament showeth His handiwork. Nothing like it on any Christmas card that I have ever seen. Jan. 4th. A blizzard sweeps the prairie, extending south with 36 inches of snow in Nebraska and a low of 27 in Los Angeles, coldest on record. Jan. 5th. Blizzard continues, South Dakota seems to have got the full brunt of the storm. Jan. 6th. My hens terminate a 2 months strike with one egg; strong Chinook wind and all day rapid thaw, temp. at Calgary 54, tho in California it was down to 30 with motorists putting anti-freeze in their cars and damage to citrus crop estimated at 10 millions. Why go to California? In Winnipeg, 375,000 tons of snow were removed at cost of 60 thousand dollars. The cause of a Chinook wind

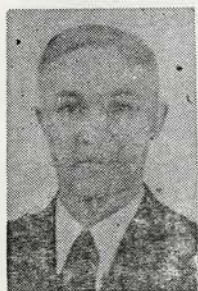
is interesting; warm rain laden-winds from Pacific ocean, when reaching the western slope of mountains discharge their moisture, this causes a rise in temperature and makes the air lighter, which then flows down the eastern slope to the plains. The pressure formed, again raises temperatures and thus we enjoy a temporary relief from our winter cold. Jan. 9th. Another freeze reported in California while in eastern Canada temp. registers 74. Here intense cold clear overhead with a ground blizzard. Montana reports 41 below and 12 above in San Francisco, while in South Africa, highest ever recorded, 125. There is no need to go to Berlin for a war of nerves, we have it here in N. D. weather. All winter long there has been a steady sequence of storms with short interludes of calm lulling into a sense of false security and then without warning, a rip-snorting blizzard whoops down from the north and an ever increasing depth of snow, drifts piling remorsefully up and threatening to engulf the buildings, a nightmare without end, undoubtedly the most useful tool in N. D. is the snow shovel. Jan. 20th. Carmen, between here and Winnipeg, records the lowest temp., -52 but 70 years ago Winnipeg had a low of -63. During this awful weather, besides my own welfare, I have 5 responsibilities, the house plants, a cow, who is provokingly temperamental about drinking out of a freezing trough, the cat and dog, who express their gratitude by escorting me on my daily rounds when it is not too cold, and the poultry, who in return for rations of best milling durum wheat and fresh water, provide tender plump roasters and now a regular supply of fresh eggs. Jan. 24th. Practically all train service in N. D. is, and has been suspended. Besides blowing snow, day and night, day temps. of -15 to -20 and around -25 to -30 by night, but drifts are firming and provide good footing. The thought that matters could be worse give one a sort of cold comfort. Jan. 28th. Received current issue of Horticulture. Dr. Will's eulogy of the cottonwood is a masterpiece; a specimen here is my outstanding tree; originally it arrived accidentally with a purchased plum and I had not the heart to discard it, and next to it are some English white willows bot many years ago from Oscar H. Will & Co.'s nursery. Feb. 1st. The intense cold and storms abate with temp. zero or above and light west wind, spasmodic rather than persistent and long periods of calm. What punishment does the 2nd half of winter hold in store? It could hardly be worse than what we have gone thru. Looking over the plants, they appear to have disliked conditions as much as I have. Some are dormant,

(Continued on Page 30)



MANITOBA NEWS LETTER

By
W. R. Leslie



W. R. Leslie

"Health Value of Fruits" is discussed by Dr. C. C. Strachan of the Experimental Station, Summerland, British Columbia, in the January issue of Country Life magazine. The findings came from four years research.

It is possible to develop varieties with increased nutritive values, especially with regard to vitamins.

Cherries are one of the best sources of minerals found in tree fruits. Lambert, and the new variety Van, are outstanding in ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) content and may be considered a good source of this vitamin. Bing has less. Cherries are not an important source of Vitamin A.

Apricots were found to be the richest in pectin of all the fruits analyzed and may be termed an excellent source of this constituent. This is advantage from a dietetic viewpoint. Apricots also have a high mineral content with a high potential alkalizing value. Among the fruits, apricots are known to be relatively rich in iron. This fruit also enjoys, along with peaches and prunes, a special reputation for use in blood regeneration in simple anemia. Apricots are an excellent source of Vitamin A. The day's adult requirement for Vitamin A may be supplied by 4 ounces of fresh ripe apricots.

Peaches, the yellow flesh freestone type, as grown in British Columbia, are a very good source of Vitamin A. The varieties Vedette, Valiant and Veteran are exceptionally high. Eight ounces of these peaches would supply all the Vitamin A required for one day. Peaches are also known to be useful in promoting haemoglobin formation.

Italian prunes are rich in pectin and are a very good source of Vitamin A, being equal to peaches in this respect. Other investigators have found that prunes contain a special laxative compound which is very beneficial in the prevention of constipation. It is also known that prunes, due to their iron, copper and manganese content, and possibly other factors, have particularly effective blood regenerating power.

Pears have been found to contain appreciable quantities of such nutritive constituents as sugar, acid, pectin and minerals but are not outstanding in any particular respect. Pears are a poor source of vitamins. However, their texture

and delectable flavor ensure their popularity with the consuming public. Furthermore, their pectin and smooth bulk give them similar virtues to apples. Also their low acid content might make this fruit desirable in the diet of people who suffer from hyperacidity.

Apples are a good source of sugar and pectin. While apples contain essential minerals, they are not so rich in these respects as most of the stone fruits. Summer and early fall apples differ from winter apples in being lower in sugar and markedly higher in acid and tannin.

Apple varieties may be grouped according to their ascorbic acid content in descending order as follows: excellent—Wagener, Northern Spy; good—Jubilee, Golden Delicious, Rome Beauty, Newton, Spitzenberg, Winter Banana, Winesap, Grimes Golden; fair—Jonathan, Red Delicious, stayman; poor—Wealthy, Spartan and McIntosh.

It is unfortunate that the commercial varieties of high vitamin content, such as Wagener, are of lesser market value than McIntosh and Delicious. While these popular market varieties are not good sources of ascorbic acid, they are often consumed in the raw state in relatively large quantities and hence may contribute significant amounts of Vitamin C to the diet.

Apples have long been known to be beneficial in the treatment of intestinal disturbances and often are prescribed for "summer complaint" in children. Usually scraped apple, or dried apple, or apple powder is used. The value of apples in this connection apparently resides in the roughage and the pectin, the latter being valuable because of its deoxygenating property, and hydration or gel-forming properties. Paradoxically, the bulk or roughage content of apples is beneficial in the treatment of constipation.

Biological studies on fruits may yet yield information on valuable properties unknown today. The science of nutrition is very young but it is making rapid advances at the present time. There are suggestive indications that apple in the diet may enable minerals to be utilized more efficiently and that fruits may have a sparing action on some other essential food constituent such as protein.

Recently biological feeding tests conducted at the University of British Columbia indicated that apples contain nutritive properties in addition to those revealed by chemical analysis. The exact nature of these additional health promoting factors contained in apples remains to be determined.

The new information being obtained by research on fruits is welcomed by doctors, nutritionists, dietitians and others interested



GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

By

Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen

Federated Garden Clubs of South Dakota



Mrs. Jorgensen

- Aberdeen Garden Club—Mrs. Clayton Deitz, Groton, President.
- Britton—Home Garden Club—Mrs. E. M. Drissen, President.
- Brookings Garden Club—R. A. Cave, president.
- Canton Garden Club—Mrs. Al Scholten, president.
- Centerville Garden Club—Mrs. B. H. Sayre, president.
- Chancellor Garden Club—Mrs. H. C. Winterboer, president.
- Crooks, Rural Circle Garden Club—Miss Inga Tidemann, Renner, president.
- Dell Rapids Garden Club—Mrs. L. G. Elsinger, president.
- DeSmet, Friendly Garden Club—Mrs. Larry Pittman, president.
- Flandreau—Green Fingers Garden Club—Mrs. Jay Bennett, president.
- Highmore, Sunshine Garden Club—Mrs. J. T. Sarvis, president.
- Hurley, Green Thumb Garden Club—Mrs. Lee Thompson, president.
- Huron, Fair City Garden Club—Mrs. Dewey Gascoigne, president.
- Huron Garden Club—Mrs. A. B. Sanborn, president.
- Iroquois Garden Club—Mrs. Thos. Keating, president.
- Lyons Garden Club—Mrs. Roy Thompson, Colton, president.
- Mobridge Garden Club—Mrs. T. Lowry, president.
- Rapid City Garden Club—F. V. Rehurek, president.
- Sioux Falls Garden Club—F. X. Wallner, president.
- South Sioux Falls Garden Club—Mrs. Martin C. Johnson, president.
- Sioux Falls, Wednesday Garden Club—Miss Haidy Ford, president.
- Vermillion Garden Club—Mrs. C. J. Gunderson, president.
- Yankton Garden Club—O. A. Grossheusch, president.

There will be no news about the individual garden clubs this month because we've been gardening in sunnier climes where mail could not catch

up with us. We hope these garden notes will be of value to you instead.—J. E. J.

Gorgeous Gloxinias

By Ethel T. Crisp in New York Times

Jewel-colored flowers on plants at windows and on porches in small towns and country places during summer prove the enthusiasm for growing gloxinias. Although natives of tropical America, gloxinias are wonderful as house plants. There are many named varieties, and a race with smaller flowers called slipper type is thought to be a species.

In bloom, gloxinias are gorgeous. They may be glistening white, or any of the shades of pink and lavender, or purple and deepest black red. Some are solid color, others have edges or throats of white or a contrasting shade, and others again have so many dots or lines in a different colored background as to make the flower appear to be the color of the markings. One of mine is white entirely covered with pin-point dots of purple. A three-toned red blossom is lighter around its ruffly edge, and dotted all over a shade darker than the background. Many purple and red ones are four inches in diameter.

If gloxinias had no flowers at all they would be worth raising for their foliage, which is soft and hairy, almost like plush. It may be any shade of green also enhanced by silver, white or red veins. Leaves sometimes are decidedly red or purple on the undersides. The leaves of a well-grown plant are large, and the flowers held upright on stout stems five or six inches high.

Summer is the usual flowering time. If it is warm, gloxinias grow well in window boxes, but during a cool summer there will be few blossoms when the plants are placed outdoors. They can always be kept as a house plant to brighten windowsills, the mantel, and occasional tables.

When gloxinias are summer flowering it is customary to store the bulbs in the cellar after the leaves have dried and repot them between February and April of the following year. However, some gardeners grow gloxinias all year round. New growth starts from the bulb before the old dies down, and flowers may appear more than once a year. There are no set rules for handling the bulbs, and a little experimenting will show the best practices to follow. It has proved best in most homes to leave the tubers in the pots in which they flowered until their dormant period is completed. They are repotted as soon as new growth appears. A good soil mixture consists of one part loam, one part leaf mold, compost or very well rotted manure, and one part sand. To each pailful of this mixture a handful of complete fertilizer is added.



Leggy gloxinias were once thought to be the result of too much water or heat or too little light. Experiments now being carried out may show that this sort of growth is due to lack of phosphate in the potting soil. Gloxinias do not demand as even a temperature as African violets, but they will not endure as many changes as a geranium. Gloxinias live in night temperatures below 60 degrees but their speed of growth is then retarded. If room temperatures and air conditions are adequate, they will grow satisfactorily in any well lighted window. However, they must not have too much sun while in bloom.

It is unfortunate that they sometimes suffer from insects which cannot be seen, and their presence is not realized, therefore, until damage has been done. Mites and thrips are most troublesome and live on the undersides of the leaves where shiny brown patches are a certain indication. *Semperflorens* begonias, if growing near gloxinias, will show the infestation first in new leaves that are crinkled or rough instead of smooth. Rotenone or pyrethrum dusts, and nicotine solutions are used to combat mites and thrips. If applications that reach the undersides of the leaves do not rid the plants of pests, they may be dipped, pot and all, into a solution of one tablespoon of nicotine to a gallon of soapy water. Thrips live in the soil and in the cracks in shelves or benches upon which plants are set, so these also must be cleaned thoroughly. Dusting the bulbs with DDT during their dormant period, as with gladiolus, ought to reduce thrips.

Mealy bugs may be wiped off plants with a cotton-tipped toothpick dipped in alcohol. Also, the plants may be placed in a large paper bag with naphthalene flakes in the bottom. The top is twisted tightly, and the plant left to stand thus from twenty-four to thirty-six hours.

Any bother in raising gloxinias is forgotten as soon as flowers open. If set back from the brightest light of a window, a blossom may last from ten to twenty days. Well grown plants produce flowers for several months. Bulbs have been known to live for more than thirty years producing flowers in greater number as they age.

Gloxinias may be propagated by tubers purchased in spring, potted immediately and watered a little—too much water on a dormant bulb will start rot. The pot should be kept in a shady place until growth starts and then it may be moved to a strongly lighted window or sunny place. As the plant grows, it should be watered only when the soil feels dry. Quickest growth occurs when the temperatures are 70 to 80 degrees during the day, and 60 to 70 degrees at night.

Slips or leaf cuttings are also a means of in-

creasing a stock of gloxinias. Stronger and quicker rooting is obtained by putting the leaf in a glass of soft water and setting it in a light window, but it may also be placed in sandy soil.

Delphinium Seed Trials

Some perennial seeds must be frozen to germinate well, but evidently delphinium do best minus the freezing process. According to the three trial methods used by Mrs. J. L. Severance, seeds of delphinium planted in pots indoors germinated and bloomed first of all. Planted just before January 1, 1948, they were in bloom in her garden on July 25, 1948, or within seven months' time. Her humorous report follows:

"Do you remember I said I went at this work with main strength and awkwardness? Well, I put some of the seeds in a pot indoors and named that Main Strength. Others are in a small bottle in the refrigerator and I call them Awkwardness. The remainder I put in soil in a coffee can and put them outside. These are called Nature's Course. On January 9 Main Strength is up with six little delphinium plants showing." Evidently Main Strength continued out in front all the time for in July Mrs. Severance wrote that it had been the first to blossom. Good care is a factor in early bloom from delphinium seed, as it is with any other plant, but it is entirely possible to grow all your own delphinium in less than the accepted two years. In the home of Olga Tiemann, at Westboro, Missouri, we once saw 200 plants of Offerman hybrid delphinium in bloom in July from seed planted out of doors the fall previous. You can have the finest delphinium hybrids in the world with so little effort that every gardener should grow as many as they have space to give to them.

Peony Species

Some Dell Rapids folks were admiring a plant in a cemetery at Canton one Memorial Day, and wondering what it could be. From a distance they thought it might be a big bush of red roses, but upon closer examination they decided that was out of the question. Comments ran something like this: "What can it be? The blossoms are as big and double as a peony! What a beautiful, brilliant red flower! Is it real? Maybe it is a house plant. No, I'm sure it must be a perennial because the soil does not appear to have been disturbed. Notice this fine foliage, almost like a cosmos. And see how it grows up the stem, too. I've never heard of such beautiful, big blossoms at this time of year, and can't get the combination of fine foliage, brilliant color, and huge doubleness out of my mind. What do you suppose it can be? Surely it must be worthy of a place

(Continued on Page 48)

ARBOR DAY

By
H. R. Woodward



H. R. Woodward

Some years ago I wrote an article on the history of Arbor Day, wherein I told of its origin back in 1872 when J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, Nebraska was Secretary of Agriculture in that state, and prevailed upon the legislature to set aside a day for tree planting. Since that time that state has designated the 22nd of April as Arbor Day and made it a legal holiday. It is the birth date of J. Sterling Morton who is really

the founder of this day of tree planting.

In South Dakota, the 1947 session of the South Dakota legislature set the last Friday in April as Arbor Day in this state, and let us hope that it will become more and more meaningful as the years come and go. It should be especially helpful to the prairie states such as ours. Forests are of immense importance in the program of soil conservation and the protection of the watershed.

Perhaps I can show this best by telling of two types of conditions which I have seen prevail. I have spent some time fishing at various times on the head-waters of upper Rapid Creek in the Black Hills. On some occasions I have been caught there during long downpours which lasted for several hours and which forced me to stay in the cabin. After the rain ceased I have donned the hip boots and started up the creek and found the stream had not risen at all and nor was it muddy. The cause of this, of course, was that the trees and shrubbery had formed a great mat and the duff from the leaves and needles of former years had left such a carpet that there was no run-off.

On the treeless plains to the south of the Black Hills quite the opposite is true. After a heavy downpour there is nothing to hold the water back and bridges, fences and grades have been swept away. Even campers sleeping along the streams have lost their lives. In such cases the rain rushes off the hills suddenly and in torrents. There is no question but what the trees are of vast importance in soil conservation.

Trees should also be planted for the protection they give against storms. They abate the fury of winds both in summer and winter and no one can dispute the fact that they help materially during periods of heavy snowfall. During

the past winter piling snow stopped all forms of transportation on the ground for days and weeks at a time and caused untold suffering to live stock on the open plains.

Trees also form cover and protection for all forms of wildlife, particularly the birds. They add to the attractiveness of our cities when planted along the streets and in parks. Every rural school house should have some sort of a plan for landscaping and tree-planting and how unfortunate it is that so often the only planning about a rural school has been the blue prints that the carpenter used when he built the building in the first place. There seems to have been no continuity, even if some trees and shrubs had been planted at one time or another by some enthusiastic group of students or a teacher. Later neglect has caused them to disappear. Everybody has been busy and no one seems to have been responsible.

The people should become more acquainted with the various nurseries in the state and the state agency which can supply them with trees. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized by the Clark-McNary forestry law to cooperate in producing and distributing forest trees for the purpose of establishing shelterbelts, windbreaks and farm woodlots throughout the nonforested lands of the various states. As a result, low-priced planting stock has become available. It might be of interest to us to know that the Bessey Nursery at Halsey, Nebraska, is operated by the U. S. Forest Service for this purpose. It was named for Charles Bessey, the great botanist at the University of Nebraska and is located in Thomas and Blaine counties in the Sand Hill region of that state. A visit there would be profitable to all of us.

The real success of Arbor Day is not in the observance of the day itself but also the planning that has preceded it and the care that is given following the tree planting. From the State Forester at Pierre or the Extension Forester at the State College, instructions on planting and care can be procured. It is also significant that the proper varieties are planted, that fit into the various types of soil and precipitation. White birch and willows should not be planted on the dry uplands, and one should observe the natural habitats of the young trees. The heaviest stand of young cottonwoods I have ever seen was along the sandbars of the Big Horn River at Greybull, Wyo. On the shale banks above the river there were none and only sagebrush prevailed.

The observance of Arbor Day should be a year-round responsibility, and it should become

(Continued on Page 48)

BOOK REVIEWS

By
Mrs. Morris Harter



Bulbs for Home Gardens, by John C. Wister. Published by Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y. Price \$5.

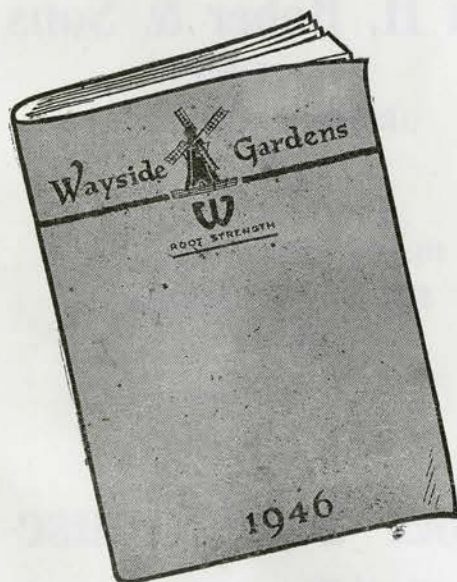
A great deal of research has been used in this book. Not only for the rather thoro cultural directions for every type of bulb one would find in American home gardens, but also for the pages and pages, forty-five to be exact, of named varieties of daffodils and tulips and the name of the breeder of each variety. Lists of standard and new varieties, divided in color groups, are given for nearly all the other bulbs under discussion to enable you to choose the type and color you want. Spring flowering bulbs, rock, and wild garden types, crocus, hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, lilies, gladiolus and half hardy summer flowering bulbs make up most of the chapter, preceded by an introduction that includes definitions, exam-

ples of uses and sources of supply. In the introduction Mr. Wister says it is up to the American public to raise its standard, thereby enabling nurserymen to put better bulbs on the market. If they demand Golden Spur, Emporer, Empress and King Alfred daffodils, then those are what they will get, while many finer species and varieties are neglected. Forty lovely photographs and seventeen comprehensive line drawing illustrate the book advantageously. Incidentally we are proud that the distinguished author of this book is a life member of our Society, residing at Swarthmore, Pa., secretary of the Penn. Society, and on the faculty of Swarthmore College.

The Pruning Book, by Gustav L. Wittrock. Published by Rodale Press, Emmaus, Pa. Price \$3. Most of the home gardeners and orchardists do their own pruning if it is done at all, and so much depends on whether the job is done correctly. To get the maximum beauty and production from our ornamentals and fruit trees, we should know where and when to prune. Wittrock's book has clear cut directions with excellent d'agrams and photos that enable anyone to care for their hedges, evergreens, fruit bearing trees, shrubs and vines. He acquaints readers with growth

(Continued on Page 47)

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Wayside Gardens

Mentor, Ohio



THE BADLANDS CEDAR

By
Dr. G. F. Will



Dr. G. F. Will

Undoubtedly the most fearless and toughest of all our Northern Plains trees is that typical frontier denizen, the Bad Lands Cedar or Scopulorum Juniper. In both hardiness and beauty it surpasses, in my opinion, its more tender cousin, the Platte River Cedar. It ranges from the Black Hills almost to the Saskatchewan River, occupying hundreds of canyons and gulches in the breaks of the Little Missouri, the Yellowstone, the big Missouri and countless other lesser streams. Neither hot winds and drought in summer nor blizzards and arctic temperatures in winter seem to disturb it at all, though it does respond to favorable conditions with faster and more luxurious growth.

This ironclad evergreen occurs in a hundred variations of form and color which have given rise to numerous nursery named varieties. There are broad, bushy specimens, dwarf types and pyramidal selections, each of which fills a special niche in landscape planting. In color the Scopulorum ranges from a dark almost black green through bright green, various shades of silver to golden, and in winter nearly all are overlaid with a more or less deep shade of bronze.

Along the little Missouri they are found from the low, river washed bottom lands to the flanks of the high barren clay buttes. In the foothills of the Rockies near Butte, Montana, there are areas in which the Junipers look as though carefully planted in laid out parks, scattered over the hillsides in various colors and odd and unusual shapes almost as though intentionally trimmed.

East of the Little Missouri in Slope County, N. D., is a bit of Maxfield Parish landscape where several draws are thickly populated by Junipers, some of large size, and all of an unusual constricted conical form which is both weird and beautiful. In my opinion that area should be set aside as a permanent park.

Another unusual form of our North Dakota Scopulorum is a handsome gold tinged form discovered by Mr. J. H. Gerbracht. This is being propagated and should prove very useful. Mr. Gerbracht has also selected an unusually fine and vigorous silvery type of quite unusual appearance.

While the Badlands or Scopulorum Juniper

will make a great tree of beautiful proportions, yet it is one of the most easily trimmed and shaped of all the Evergreen species. It makes a beautiful compact hedge that can be kept low and uniform for many years with but little difficulty or can be permitted to grow into a taller screen.

The wood of the Scopulorum is perhaps the most beautiful and the most enduring to be found in the Plains. And the age to which the tree lives is certainly greater than that of any other Plains inhabitant. Wood workers enthuse over the beautiful grain and color of the wood which will last almost for centuries without decaying. Cedar pieces from old Indian villages along the Missouri have been very useful in determining the ages of their destruction or abandonment. Several sections from the old Mandan Village site on the Ft. Lincoln State Park, a village which was destroyed about 175 years ago, when sawed showed perfectly sound wood with no sign of decay, and even the characteristic odor of the wood was strongly in evidence.

Not long ago Mr. Robert Byrne, a former N. D. Secretary of State, brought in to the Historical Society a cross section from a huge cedar trunk. It must have been, while living, some two feet or a little more in diameter. A count of the annual rings showed that the tree was well over five hundred years old.

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BLIZZARD BELT GARDENER

By
Mrs. F. Briley



Mrs. F. Briley

At the National Convention of Garden Leaders, held in Washington, D. C., in January, some stimulating talks were given, and instructive recommendations were made by two committees, one on "Home Fruit and Vegetable Gardening program," and the other on "Home Grounds and Community Improvement." The talks and the committee reports reflect the great attention given at the conference to the problems of maintaining and increasing nationwide interest in gardening in all its branches, and the development of greater interest and action in the improvement of home grounds and communities. The following are some statements culled from some of the talks: M. L. Wilson, Dir. of extension work, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, "1949 is a year when I believe that all friends of the garden movement will want to stress the home and community beautification and recreation phases of gardening. For young people, gardening is one of the most important educational and character building activities. As America increases its efficiency of labor, much needs to be done to provide recreation that develops character and builds a better way of life. Horticultural science and the art of applying this science affords perhaps the leading opportunity for a stimulating and creative recreational pastime. I invite garden leaders to emphasize this phase of gardening, in particular this coming season." Paul C. Stark: "Gardening is no longer a pastime in which a few gentlemen and ladies are interested as kind of social thing. It enters importantly as an activity in the education of youth, the young generation coming up. If we observe all that victory gardening did to 4-H and other youth organizations, we recognize in gardening a real instrument in youth education, one that contributes something that will strengthen the nation psychologically and morally." At this writing, looking out at the worst blizzard predicted for the winter, it is nice to think of Arbor Day and plan for planting trees. Cooperate with one of your junior groups in your town, 4-H club, Boy or Girl Scouts, a grade in schools, and have a tree planting ceremony of some sort.

Keeping Up With the National

By Mrs. G. R. McArthur

The reports of the Garden Clubs in the different states are most interesting. Many, many states have taken over flower projects in Veterans hospitals, whereby each club assumes the responsibility for one week, or month, taking flowers to each room, cooperating and assisting the "Gray Ladies" in their work about the hospital and for the men. Fruit is also dispensed to each bedside, at Christmas time each has a wreath, other clubs made arrangements for working parties of sailors, well enough to get out, to cut Christmas trees under the supervision of a State Forester. Garden therapy in Maine is a large and successful project for crippled children. Clubs provide money for the operation of a green house and the raising of vegetables and flowers by the children with the help of the garden club members. Massachusetts had a large fall flower show with special attention given to Christmas table decorations and greens. At the last Federation Flower Show in Rhode Island several Veterans exhibited and arranged their own displays, receiving the only Tri-color award given at the show. At Christmas time Rhode Island club members also made and donated 200 corsages, 200 candy wreaths and 144 decorated candy canes to hospitals. New Hampshire club members gave a luncheon and garden party for the wives of the governors of the 41 states attending a national meeting there. The Burlington, Vermont, Club played "Hands Across the Border" this past June and entertained members of the "Diggers and Weeders Club" of Montreal, Canada.

South Dakota club members should begin to make plans to attend the annual convention of the National Council in Portland, Oregon, May 22-24, 1949. There will be an interesting post-convention trip to Alaska for all who are interested.

At this time of year most of us depend on florists' flowers for decoration. Here are a few suggestions to stretch your flower budget and arrangements by Esther C. Grayson, from the "Home Garden." To get the best value for your money visit the florist and select each bloom, choose stems and bloom that will fit the vase you wish to use. Choose less-perishable flowers as far as possible. Choose roses, daffodils and pansies only when you wish some special arrangement. It is possible to use foliage alone effectively, keep arrangements simple, using pottery figures and birds with the foliage. Make your own everlasting bouquets from grasses, dried leaves and sprays silvered with aluminum paint. Evergreen

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

By
F. X. Wallner



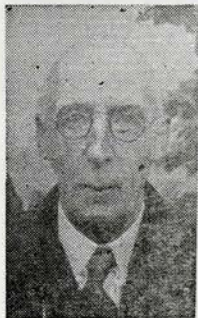
Many of the notes of the journey from Sioux Falls to Richland, Wash., are of very little interest at this late date. Everywhere is deep snow, even in early December; at Aberdeen the train from the west is 11 hours late. Many of the cabins and ranches are vacant, most of these people enjoy city life rather than stay on the snow covered ranches. Cattle and horses seemed in good condition in sheltered spots in spite of the deep snow. They say 6 ft. of snow at Avery where the steam engine again takes over. At Butte I was told there are 2,700 miles of tunnels 5,700 ft. deep. From here west to Spokane is a deep blanket of snow, except in the many tunnels we pass thru. The many snow fences are poorly kept in repair and there is no sign of wild life anywhere for miles. While at Richland, Wash., we again made a trip to the McNary dam site where concrete pouring has begun. They will need many more of these big dams to keep up with the needs of power west of the Rocky mountains. The power shortage is most acute from 4 p. m. to 6 p. m. In spite of the activity of thousands of people here at Richland, everything is quiet and peaceful. No snow from here to Portland and there is a magic line somewhere between where we pass from the desolate barren desert to the green forests and fields. New Year's day here comes in warm and sunny but before noon a heavy wet snow covers the ground in a short time but before darkness it again disappears, but this is unusual Oregon weather. The ranch house of Catherine is being thoroly overhauled and rebuilt and I hope will be a more peaceful place to visit than the Everette apartments. I spent most of my time with postal inspectors tracing my mail. The S. P. train trip from Portland to Los Angeles is thru snow-covered desert and mountains. Towns spring up quickly and Redding, near the Schasta dams site, is a booming town. Acres of new lumber, stacked up for building new homes and for shipping. Here are also hundreds of acres of ripe olives being packed for Heinz. A new roadbed with many tunnels has been built here because of the lake built in Pet river by the Schasta dam. The big day in Los Angeles was a Sunday after mass when we made over a 100-mile trip by car visiting friends from Dakota, also saw

the grand daughter, 7 months old, but was not allowed to take her to her parents in Richland by plane. Surprised Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hall at Sun Valley, formerly in the Secretary's office at the court house. Had dinner and pictures taken in Los Angeles' Chinatown, passed thru many towns adjacent to L. A. Tender plants, trees and shrubbery show the effect of cold and wind, even the dwarf and tall palms are very ragged and some have only 2 or 3 fronds left on the top of the pole. In Santa Monica there was less damage; here there were lots of our annuals in bloom, after some warm rains, pansies, snaps, also geraniums and poinsettias. There is also here a larger list of hedge plants than at Portland. Heather and poinsettias up to 8 ft. tall. Ground is covered with citrus fruits in orchards and most of their trees will not bear fruit for two years. All the work with orchard heaters and the big expense could not save the trees and fruit. Also had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Beebe and daughter in Hollywood. Hi was overseeing the packing for her return to Omaha. I was planning to stay over Sunday for the S. D. Picnic at Sicamore Grove, but the distressing news from home had me in the mood of returning at once by plane, but wise council and letter advised against this. Jan. 24th. On the way by S. P. along the Mexican border to El Paso but at Calopies to Mexicalla, the train is in Mexico and the inspection officers came aboard to ask where I was born. For once I thot before I answered, but asked if it made any difference. Then he asked how long I had been a citizen of the U. S. I said since 1880; I had visions of being put off the train had I told where I had been born. The train is filled with dark skinned people and many children crying. Passengers wondered how I kept on reading but I finished the book "Miracle of the Bells" before darkness and the swirling blizzard in southern New Mexico. All the way up thru the state to the Panhandle of Texas and Oklahoma is deep snow and the largest expanse of snow I have ever seen is thru the whole state of Kansas. I think it is here that the farmers are using posthole diggers to find hay stacks or to find windmills to be oiled rather than in S. D. This train is also 12 hours late into Kansas City. A side trip to Moberly, Mo., that was to be a few days has run into two weeks. The Shevlins here will be remembered in Sioux Falls by old timers, as managers of Washington Dairy Lunch on Phillips Ave. A trip to Kansas City at 3 a. m., a few hours wait for a train to Des Moines, several more hours wait to reach Madrid, then the delayed mainliner to Sioux City is also late. Here I

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

By
W. A. Simmons



The books tell of a man who on being asked if he was going south for the winter replied, "No, I can get all the winter I want right here." As an example of one who had to seek winter weather in the south, here is a letter from Mr. J. B. Taylor, written at Donna, Texas: "They call this the Magic Valley, and some refer to it, or did refer to it as the Garden of Eden. That was before the hard freezes. Up to Feb. 1st everything was lovely, the flowers were out in all their glory and the perfume permeated the air. Now all leaves of tender shrubs and trees are blackened, and even the hardy cactus are doubled up. They throw their hands in the air when we tell them we are from South Dakota, but when their northerners strike here they blame it on us, as they do about the outcome of the Civil war. We started out with our longhanded underwear, then changed, coming down, to intermediate, and then on arriving at their Magic Valley, to the summer undies, just slightly warmer than that used by Adam in the original Garden of Eden. But I was glad I had not discarded the heavies, and put them back on. Is there a Garden of Eden? I'll take by Eden in S. D. Fruits of oranges and grapefruit damaged, but they say it will take several weeks to know what the damage is. But tender vegetables were a 100% loss. Carrots and beets came out all right but even some of the cabbage are damaged. Give me a home where the buffalo used to roam

and the best people on earth live." According to Wisconsin Horticulture, "Heating the water used to water house plants or plants in the greenhouse is not only unnecessary, but in some cases undesirable, as shown by experiments done for Roses, Inc., at Ohio State University. Altho applying warm water raises the temperature of the soil, the effect wore off in a short time and top growth of rose plants was best where ordinary cold water was used. Flower production was as good or better with cold water." Slobolt lettuce that gives us such good eating all summer, seems to be something of a headache for the seed companies as the following from the Agricultural Dept. shows:

"If Slobolt were not so slow to bolt in would be easier to keep up the seed supply this valuable new lettuce variety. The very name suggests how successful U. S. Dept. of Agriculture plant breeders were in their job of breeding a lettuce that would do well in late spring when warm weather causes most lettuce to "bolt" or go to seed.

Because Slobolt is slow to bolt, it is hard to keep up a seed supply and the breeders would now like to discover some special treatment or method of culture that would speed up the bolting of Slobolt. Last spring they experimented with 'vernalization' of the seed—that is soaking the seed in water until it sprouts and then refrigerating it for a period before planting. British seeds men have reported that this method speeds up seed setting in some strains of lettuce. But vernalization did not work well with Slobolt—or even with a quick bolting American strain.

Success with Slobolt has created a new problem of finding a way to get a better seed set in the seed production field of this lettuce that is desirable because it is so slow to set seed in the garden."

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SILVERBERRY

By
Miss Rachael Murdock



Coming back from the neighbors I gathered an armful of Silverberry. Some of my neighbors call it Wolf Willow and when I first came to the prairie I was given the name Buck Brush for it. Still another name is the Missouri Silver tree. Common enough this gnarled, woody brush, frequents pastures and roadsides, and it is chiefly characterized by its silvery gray leaves and yellow axillary flowers. Clusters of tiny, yellow trumpets, their exterior silver-white, adorn the thwarted twigs, emitting a fragrance spicy sweet, to pervade the pasture and be borne along the roadway on a light breeze. The blossoms are followed in season by silver berries filled with a dry mustard-brown meal, and I have read that they are edible. Botanically the Silverberry (*Eleagnus argentea*) is a cousin of the Russian olive. There are said to be seven other members of the family which are indigenous of Europe, eastern Asia and its islands. Ranging from eastern Canada to Utah, the silverberry grows up to 12 feet high but more ordinarily one sees it here on the prairie growing only from four to seven feet. Its relative, the Russian olive, is so often likewise rather a twisted and tormented little tree of runty proportions as it grows here, but may, under favorable growing conditions assume a height, stature, and beauty comparable to the most beautiful of trees in any section of the country. Jamestown has some of the finest specimens I have seen anywhere in the state. The Russian olive, also called Jerusalem willow, said that greatest of English garden writers, Wm. Robinson, "is the wild olive of old Greek authors." Its fruit, which has a sweet and agreeable flavor, is sold in Istanbul markets. I should like to try growing the Cherry *Elaeagnus* which has spotted scarlet fruits, and dark green leaves, silvery on the underside. Prof. Sargent suggested the plant might be grown for the beauty of the fruit alone. Some French growers use it for preserves. Spirits are made from it and are said to be similar to Kirsch in taste. It is offered by a Painesville, Ohio, nursery. That same nursery sells small plants of the silverberry at \$2 each. I'd like to dig you 100 at that price. But it is a native and sometimes we do not want wild plants in our gardens because they will grow wild any-

way, for us to enjoy. It has not rarity, ostentation, or anything to make the Jones exclaim at our achievement in growing it. But in imagination, I should like to grow a backyard border of it with a large swathe of mignonette in the foreground, surrounding a thatched hive of bees. "Come winter and rough weather" the dried silver berries suggest bouquets. Every section of the country which I know has one weed florists favor for decorative purposes; in Oregon it's teasel; in Texas, their false thistle; in Minneapolis, milkweed; so here we might well use silverberry. So far as I am aware it is never used. Arranged in a deep blue pottery bowl, blue water color daubed here and there, on the cheeks of the berries, it made an effective picture. Uncolored, the silver berries possess a beauty of line when placed in an aluminum or pewter bowl which is a lovely foil for a vividly colored figurine. It appealed too, to fancy to experiment with silverberry in a flat dish commingled with gray green heads of timothy, from the rack stack, arrayed with five tangerines in the foreground. This time splashes of soft green and orange were added to a few of the gray berries.

The white man's burden seems to be a lot of other white men.—Wisconsin Horticulture.

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GARDEN NOTES

(Continued from Page 36)

others I fear sleep the eternal sleep and a few are very thrifty. These include two tall geraniums, the colored leaf Skies of Italy and Jubilee with bright green foliage the color of an aspen in May, a relief from the somber green of most geraniums, bushy, well proportioned and leafing from the base up. Mr. Wilson, who is a connoisseur on geraniums, calls it a strikingly handsome plant. Flowers are single pink with a white base; also the strongly fragrant white flowered apple mint and the holly tree with ever-blooming Coliseum ivy covering the gal. pail and draping over the edge, an English setting. If I was permitted to have only one house plant my choice would be a variegated English holly.

NEWSLANTS

(Continued from Page 35)

for 20 years and it was a delightful thing again in bloom last season. I think this paragraph which follows will interest a few more people in this particular variety. We hope to set out a couple of bushes of it this coming spring, as well as its pink counterpart, sometimes listed as the Red Frau Karl Druschki or "Ruhm von Steinfurth."

"The well-known rose, Frau Karl Druschki, was named after the wife of the president of the German Rose Society. The late Peter Lambert, of Trier, Germany, who raised it, entered the seedling in a competition organized in 1900 by a Frankfurt gardening journal which offered 1,000 marks for a new rose which was to be called Bismarck. The jury passed over Lambert's white rose, and perhaps rightly, for only a blood-red flower would have been appropriate for such a name. Lambert was naturally disappointed, but having faith in his seedling, he asked the president of the Rose Society to allow the variety to bear his name. The president thought it would be nice to call the rose after his wife, and so it became the famous Frau Karl Druschki, while the variety chosen to commemorate Bismarck has never been widely grown."

Pelleted garden seeds are commanding the attention of some gardeners this year. Whether they are worth while or practical in Dakota home gardens remains to be seen, but they trail the multiflora rose as a "horticultural rabble-rouser"! Hard to handle small seeds can be quite accurately spaced in the row when pelleted. This not only saves seed but saves a lot of thinning later on. Several fancy claims are being made for these pelleted seeds but we are gonna wait and see—

along with the other second guessers. Anyhow, we have the name of at least one seed house listing pelleted seed of several garden crops. A postal will bring you the name of this company if you want to try them.

If you like to try new things try the New Hampshire Midget Watermelon. The Granite State and the Minnesota Midget Muskmelon are also recommended for trial. While small, they are early and good quality.

We shall close with this short poem:

I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on my knife.

BOOK REVIEW

(Continued from Page 41)

habits of plants, so they may avoid the mistakes most amateurs make when endeavoring to do their own pruning. We recommend reading the book thoroly then making out a pruning schedule for the year, using the instructions that would apply to your own garden or orchard. Each plant is discussed separately so you can't make a mistake.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NOTES

(Continued from Page 44)

had a few more pleasant days with my youngest daughter and many old friends, also attended a garden club meeting, the first while on my vacation the past two months. I got back home to attend the Garden club meeting on the 17th. The vice president, the Sec. and the program committee have been having good meetings during my absence. The damage to the home by the fire is considerable and is a bad mess, but it does not seem possible the insurance will cover more than one-third of the loss. The State Garden club president, Mr. J. M. Atkinson, has six projects he wants all clubs to consider. First, dues should be at least \$1 per member. Sioux City membership is \$1.50. Second, each pay at least 50 cents for the magazine, but I think that could be taken care of by the increase in dues. Third, boost for the Blue Star highway thru the western part of the state. Fourth, pay \$5,000, about one-half of the cost of 40 acres of Redwood trees in California at the end of the highway. Fifth, send in dues to the National Garden, this is not clear to me. Sixth, get the book of the story of the National Council.

One of the youngest things in America is often referred to as a baby.—Don McNeil.

**BOOK REVIEW**

By
W. A. Simmons

The Lily Year Book of the North American Lily Society, edited by Dr. George L. Slate. For sale by Dr. Phillip Brierley, 6405 Queens Chapel Road, Hyattsville, Md. Price \$3, which includes a year's membership in the Society. This is a book of absorbing interest to anyone that loves lilies, probably the most beautiful of all our garden flowers. It contains 46 authoritative articles by our best lily plant breeders, on subjects on which they are experts. Among those our readers are most apt to know about are Isabella Preston, F. L. Skinner, both of whom have originated beautiful and adapted lilies. Some of the latter's originations came thru alive and floriferous the winter when even our Tigers and umbellatums were killed out. It was pleasant to see by the list of members that three South Dakotans are members, Mrs. G. M. Jorgensen and Ethel T. Crisp, of Dell Rapids and Emil Linder of Brookings. Also Mr. H. J. Donaldson of Fremont, Nebraska, one of our past presidents. Mrs. Crisp has a good article about the lilies she has found hardy in our state. Almost every page has pictures of some of the latest lilies, and it is pleasant to read of the many new lilies the plant breeders have given us within the last few years. We hope the membership list in next year's book will include many more members from our state, and a goodly number from North Dakota.

BLIZZARD BELT GARDEN NOTES

(Continued from Page 43)

boughs are very effective augmented with two or three cut blooms. Sometimes a single group of spike flowers can be re-used in different arrangements as the stems are shortened even down to a floating table arrangement. Often houseplants can be combined with other foliage or cut bloom for an effective arrangement."

If you or your club have used a new or novel decoration, an outstanding idea for a program, a clever way to make money for your club or anything you think good, please give it publicity so that credit may be given to your club in this magazine and we all may share your success.

I've got a neighbor so obligin' that whenever he wants to knock the fenders off his old car, he comes over and knocks the fenders off my car with the same sideswipe.—Foxtail in Prairie Farmer.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 38)

in our gardens if it is a perennial."

The plant in question was easily identified as a species peony, *tenuifolia flore plena*, which blooms on or about Decoration Day, but is not to be confused with the old Decoration Day peony, *rubra superba*, which is about a week later than *tenuifolia*. *Tenuifolia*'s fine foliage in combination with the huge double blooms, coming so early in spring is what fools so many observers. It is a sturdy perennial, and a glorious addition to the border. There is a well grown plant at 614 West First Street in Sioux Falls, too.

Another peony called *p. lacinatus* is about the same color, still earlier in blossom, but with cut leaf foliage and single flowers. You may have to search for a source for these peonies as not many nurseries list them. If unable to locate them elsewhere, write to F. Wassenberg, Van Wert, Ohio. Our plants were purchased from the Dybvig Nurseries in 1932.

ARBOR DAY

(Continued from Page 40)

more important to us with each succeeding year. In a dry area a little water and little care during July and August may tell us whether our efforts or Arbor Day were wasted or not.

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